



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON BROADBAND MAPPING PROGRAM LAUNCHES NEW INTERACTIVE MAP AND ONLINE SPEED TEST

Washington's Broadband Coverage Identified

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Department of Information Services launched a new section of the Washington Broadband Mapping Program's website today. New features on the site include an interactive map of the state, and a speed test application – which allows people to test their actual Internet download and upload speeds against the Internet service provider's advertised service speeds. The map can be found at: <http://wabroadbandmapping.org/>

"These maps not only demonstrate where we are with broadband access today, they also offer guidance toward a future where the benefits of broadband are widely available across Washington State" said Angela Wu, Broadband Policy and Programs Manager for the Department of Information Services. "We look forward to working with both public and private stakeholders as we exchange ideas and explore ways to achieve this goal."

The site's new interactive map includes thirteen data layers, which can be toggled on/off, all the way down to the census block level. Layers include:

- Population
- Population density
- Population by age range
- Median household income
- Education level (high school graduate or college graduate)
- Land use
- Location of small businesses (with 50 employees or less) by county
- Annual estimated wages (by county)
- Broadband service type and speed

A new community section is also available, complete with optional surveys for business owners, members of the general population, and community anchor institutions – such as schools, libraries, medical and healthcare facilities, public safety entities, colleges, and universities.

The purpose of the website is to display a collection of data showing which areas of Washington are in need of increased broadband infrastructure, adoption, and training programs. The

interactive map and speed test web application (<http://wabroadbandmapping.org/SpeedTest.aspx>) were created in conjunction with the Sanborn Map Company, Inc., and Applied Geographics, Inc.

The website and the Washington Broadband Mapping Program are funded by state dollars and a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant. For more information about Washington's broadband mapping program, please visit the Washington State Broadband website at: <http://www.broadband.dis.wa.gov>.

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About DIS

The Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS) provides telecommunications, computing, and digital government services to state, local, and tribal governments; higher education institutions, and qualified non-profit organizations.

About Sanborn Map Company, Inc.

With a rich tradition of mapping dating back to 1866, Sanborn offers end-to-end spatial solutions to GIS and photogrammetric mapping customers. The company's combined product and service offerings include consulting, off-the-shelf products, digital camera and LiDAR data acquisition, photogrammetric mapping, broadband mapping and data conversion. Sanborn offers product solutions for government and commercial customers. Sanborn has completed statewide mapping projects for over 20 states.

Additionally, we have completed statewide mapping for more than a dozen states under the USDA's NAIP program for leaf on photography. A nationally recognized company, Sanborn has multiple offices within the United States. Sanborn is involved in mapping broadband for 7 states under the State Broadband Data and Development Program in various capacities. For more information, visit www.sanborn.com.

About Applied Geographics, Inc.

Applied Geographics, Inc. (AppGeo, www.appgeo.com) has been providing high quality GIS and IT consulting services and innovative solutions since 1991. In that time, AppGeo has assisted over 600 clients from federal, state, and local government and the private sector with GIS implementation in a number of key markets and industries including projects in 30 states across the nation, from the East Coast to California and Hawai'i. With a professional staff focused on GIS technology, AppGeo services and solutions cover all aspects of GIS technology implementation: strategic planning and system design, spatial data development and integration, spatial analysis and modeling, custom applications for the desktop, Web, or mobile platforms, Web hosting, technical support and training. A core business of AppGeo is the design and development custom applications for Web mapping. AppGeo is currently under contract on broadband projects in seven states providing a mix of data standardization, integration services and custom Web application development for Broadband availability mapping, speed testing, public surveys, and broadband program information dissemination.